

January 13, 2021 Louise Archer PTA Meeting Minutes

Call to Order 8:02 pm

Principal's Report

- Pause on Return to School – No additional information yet on next steps. But Louise Archer staff are continuing to prepare behind the scenes. The staff looks forward to being back in the building when that time comes.
- Reminder on status – Emails were sent for grades K-2 families identifying placement for return to school, which included teacher assignments, days in-person, and other details. Emails have not yet been sent to grade 3-6 families, but school staff are communicating with families to plan for the return. The grade 3-6 emails should be sent in the next few weeks.
- Building prep – FCPS safety teams have visited the school and provided feedback. The building is ready and prepared for students when they arrive.
- FCPS employees received an email regarding the vaccination process on January 13. Staff can start getting the vaccine on Saturday. The sign-up for staff vaccinations starts on January 14.
- The end of quarter is coming up. Monday (1/18) is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Wednesday (1/20) is a holiday for the Inauguration.
 - There is early release for the end of quarter on Friday, Jan. 22, and the school day will end at 2 pm.
 - January 25 is teacher work day to prepare for next quarter, so there will be no classes that day.
- Upcoming Return to school asynchronous days – Once FCPS approves a schedule for return to in-person learning, there will be scheduled asynchronous days to prepare. The days will be staggered by grade level once in-person plans are confirmed. Keep an eye out for email updates.
- The yearbook committee and administration are working with Lifetouch to schedule options for school photos.
 - Right now, the plan is to schedule an evening near the end of February, probably February 25. There will be a sign-up for times to take photos.
 - There will be an email update in the next few weeks.
 - There will also be an opportunity to either send in a photo or do something outside of the February in-person photos as well.
- Testing update – LAES is cleared for in-person assessments.
 - February – The school will start WIDA (ESOL) testing and advanced math testing for 6th graders.
 - SoLs – There is no update at this time, and they are still on the calendar for spring.

Treasurer's Report

- We received \$216 in additional membership dues and donations in last two months.
 - This brings total received through December to \$8,462.
- We received a total of \$9058 in fundraising income.
 - This includes about \$6500 from LA5K;
 - \$259 from Spirit Wear;
 - \$178 dining for dollars; and
 - about \$650 from various loyalty rewards programs (Amazon; Harris Teeter; box tops).
- After accounting for LA5K expenses, our total income is \$16,574
- As for expenses,
 - We have paid about \$6000 in educational licenses this year to support virtual learning.
 - In terms of other support this year,
 - We paid about \$1300 to teachers for supplies;
 - about \$1,700 in mini grants;
 - nearly \$1000 from Azzara fund; and
 - about \$350 for Reflections ceremony.
- We have about \$45,000 in the bank.
- The Treasurer's report is also available on the LAES PTA website.

President's Report & Program Announcements

- **Reminders**
 - **Upcoming 2021 meetings (all meetings are at 8 pm via zoom)**
 - Tuesday, February 9
 - Monday, March 15
 - Monday, April 12
 - Tuesday, May 25
 - **Sunshine Times** - submissions due January 22
 - **Fundraisers** -
 - **Amazon Smile** – reminder to add the Louise Archer PTA when shopping at smile.amazon.com.
 - **Box Tops App** – reminder to download Box Tops app and scan receipts to support Louise Archer PTA.
- **Stock the Fridge** – January 25 (Teacher work day)
 - There will be a Sign-up genius on the PTA facebook page and in the Sunshine Times.
- **Pizza Bingo** –
 - Unfortunately, Pizza Bingo cannot be in-person this year.
 - Wolftrap Elementary had a virtual pizza bingo.
 - LAES Virtual Pizza Bingo hour – tentatively Friday March 12, likely from 5:30 – 6:30 pm

- The tentative plan is a one-hour virtual event coordinated with Dining for Dollars from 4-6 pm at a local pizza place.
- It will be a completely free community event.
- The committee is working on get LAES staff members to virtually run the bingo and/or raffle, similar to the usual in-person event.
- There will not be a silent auction portion.
- Raffle portion -
 - The PTA will ask parents to donate \$5 gift cards from local businesses (i.e., Dairy Queen, Rita's, Ben and Jerry's, Bard's Alley, etc.) for a raffle.
 - The raffle will be for the students to win gift cards, with a pick-up day TBD later.
- If you want to help, please email Krista and Sneha.
- **Mini Grants** –
 - There were six submissions from the first round with approximately \$1700 distributed to teachers.
 - Another round is going on right now. We are hoping for a quick turnaround with February payouts to teachers.
 - There will be at least one more round of mini grants. If there is still budget and only a few submissions then possibly one more round
- **Return to School Discussion** –
 - Kristin shared her personal experiences working on pandemic planning in education in 2006
 - There was a discussion about having a committee for Return to School or something the PTA could do to possibly set a goal for opening Louise Archer.
 - Shannon Aimone offered to lead a charge with an individual school focus that is not a PTA focused event, but would provide a positive way for families to get involved.
 - Shannon is going to start a new facebook page and email list with suggestions on ways to get active and engage leadership to seek a return to school and in-person options.
 - PTA Advocacy Goal Announcements on Thursday, January 14 –
 - Kristin asked parents who wanted to be involved to come to the school, wearing masks and staying separated, to post a short message starting on Thursday, Jan. 14 and to use hashtags #takeactionforkids and tag legislative representatives.
 - Possible goal for LAES PTA – there was extensive discussion regarding a possible goal. We had a robust conversation about a goal focused on parental choice. The issue was tabled.
 - Teacher Input – The issue of whether the PTA could gather teacher input regarding return to school was discussed. But it was noted that it may be hard for teachers to speak out given their positions within FCPS.

- There was also discussion regarding the impact on teachers if students return to school in February.
 - Michelle explained that LAES has been preparing and planning for students to return and they have already spoken with teachers. The school worked within the teachers' rights and abilities.
- **Spirit Wear** – Lynn Collins
 - We need to choose timeline for spirit wear free shipping weeks. Usually, it is tied to faculty volleyball game, but the game isn't happening. Lynn is open to suggestions for dates.
 - Sales are good, and the program will take place again next year. We are moving into a range where the PTA gets money back from sales.

Meeting adjourned 9:28 pm